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TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS WH00350

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WASHINGTON POST (12/2/75)

KISSINGER ORDERED VOTE AT U.N. DESPITE ADVICE ON U.S. STAND
BY MARILYN BERGER

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER ORDERED THE AMERICAN VOTE
IN FAVOR OF SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION THAT WILL BRING THE PALESTINE
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION INTO A U.N. MIDDLE EAST DEBATE DESPITE
SOME ADVICE THAT A FIRMER U.S. STAND WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A RESULT
MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ISRAELIS.

THE ACTION CAME SUNDAY ON A RESOLUTION EXTENDING FOR SIX MONTHS
THE MANDATE OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE ON THE Golan HEIGHTS
SYRIAN-ISRAELI BORDER.

THAT RESOLUTION ALSO CALLED FOR A DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM "INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, TAKING INTO AC-
COUNT ALL RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS."

SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT YAKOV MALIK OF THE SOVIET UNION AN-
NOUNCED THAT IT WAS THE "UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAJORITY" THAT
"REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WILL
BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE," WHICH IS TO BEGIN
JAN. 12, 1976.

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TERMS OF THE RESOLUTION WENT ON FROM FRI-
DAY TO SUNDAY.

IN THE COURSE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, U.S. OFFICIALS MADE
IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD VETO ANY MENTION OF THE PLO IN THE
RESOLUTION ITSELF AND ANY MENTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESO-

*****WH00350 COMMENT*****

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LUTION 3375, WHICH CALLS FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS, UNLESS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, ARE NOT BINDING.

KISSINGER WAS EN ROUTE TO CHINA WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDED.

EACH TIME THE UNITED STATES TOOK A STRONG STAND, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AT THE UNITED NATIONS SAID, SYRIA, WHICH WANTED THE PEACEKEEPING MANDATE EXTENDED, BACKED DOWN ON ITS OWN DEMANDS.

KISSINGER WAS TOLD THAT SOME DIPLOMATS BELIEVED THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD GET THE REFERENCE TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION TAKEN OUT OF THE RESOLUTION AND COULD FORESTALL A STATEMENT BY NALIK IF IT TOOK A STRONG POSITION.

U.S. OFFICIALS ARGUED THAT IT WAS ENOUGH TO GET REFERENCES TO THE PLO TAKEN OUT OF THE RESOLUTION. FOR THESE OFFICIALS, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET THE MANDATE OF THE U.N. OBSERVER FORCE EXTENDED.

THE U.S. VOTE SUNDAY WAS SEEN AS A LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP TO A CALL BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR "A DIPLOMATIC PROCESS WHICH WILL HELP BRING FORTH A REASONABLE DEFINITION OF PALESTINIAN INTERESTS." HAROLD SAUNDERS, WHO WAS THEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS MADE THAT STATEMENT NOV. 12. SAUNDERS WAS SWORN IN YESTERDAY AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.

ISRAEL CONSIDERS THE U.S. VOTE A VIOLATION OF UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED AS PART OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT INITIATED SEP. 1. ISRAEL HAS ALWAYS REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO BECAUSE THAT ORGANIZATION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL.
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